

[54] **ELECTROCHEMICAL GENERATION OF FIELD DESORPTION EMITTERS**

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[57] **ABSTRACT**

An electrochemically generated field desorption emitter for use in mass spectrometry, and a process for forming such an emitter by immersing a metal support, as a first electrode, and a second electrode in an electrolytic liquid mixture having appropriate concentration of a metal compound, and applying a plurality of short duration, electrical pulses between the electrodes. The emitter so formed comprises an elongated metal support having a plurality of metal dendrites extending in a generally radially outwardly direction therefrom.

**15 Claims, 9 Drawing Figures**

